

FEB 03 1987

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II

DATE:

JAN 26 1987

SUBJECT: Bossert Manufacturing - Utica, New York

FROM: Joseph Rotola, On-Scene Coordinator
Response and Prevention BranchTO: William Nelson,
Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry

On December 1, 1986, while investigating property boundaries and present and prior ownership of the Bossert Manufacturing facility, Karen Sahatjian of the Technical Assistance Team met with David Ashe, Director of Real Estate for the City of Utica. During their conversation Mr. Ashe told Ms. Sahatjian that two adolescents had been exposed to chemicals at the Bossert Manufacturing Site. The exposure occurred on October 29, 1986. The father of the teenagers, Mr. Lukina, notified Mr. Ashe of the incident and indicated that he felt there was a serious problem.

Mr. Ashe explained that apparently a group of teenagers had been trespassing onto the property frequently prior to the incident. On one occasion, they spilled and broke carbuoys of nitric acid which allegedly produced a white cloud upon impact with the floor. A recent inventory indicates that more containers were vandalized over the past 1 1/2 months.

After the incident, the teenagers, a boy and a girl, were taken to St. Luke's Memorial Hospital in Utica. The girl indicated that she was experiencing shortness of breath and tightness in her chest. The boy apparently had green spots on his hands which he thought to be acid burns. The "burns" did eventually go away, however the girl has still been experiencing vocal and respiratory problems.

Mr. Ashe is asking, on behalf of the family, for information that may assist the doctors at St. Luke's in diagnosing and treating this problem. Due to the nature of this incident we are requesting assistance from your office.

A list of chemicals/products are presented in Attachment I. Material Safety Data Sheets are presently being obtained so that more specific information on the chemical makeup of these compounds is available for review.



If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (201) 321-6789. I suggest that we meet at your earliest convenience so that this incident can be discussed in more detail.

Attachment

cc: S. Luftig
F. Rubel
B. Zachos
M. Randol
J. Kahn ✓
C. Kwan

ATTACHMENT I

• 5 gal. pail	Eruko D554 EM Compound	Bruce Products Howell, MI
• 15 gal. drum	Muratic Acid	Monarch Chemicals 37 Meadow St. Utica, N. Y.
• 55 gal. drum	International Comp. #126-B	International Chemical Co. Philadelphia, Pa 79133 (215) 739-2313
• 2 carbuoys	Nitric acid	Monarch Chemical Utica, N. Y. (315) 732-6151

In addition, the site is contaminated with PCB-laden oil with concentrations as high as 11,000 ppm.